

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 HEW-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 EUR-25 NIC-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 PC-10 /184 W

----- 118644

R 121200Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8073

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY EDUCATION MINISTER

1. SUMMARY. IN A RAMBLING 40 MINUTE SPEECH ON SEP 10 MARKING THE CELEBRATION OF TEACHERS DAY, EDUCATION MINISTER IVANISSEVICH STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE PRESENT UNIVERSITY SITUATION AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS STRIKE. WHILE NOT PROPOSING ANY ACTION IN THESE AREAS AT THE PRESENT TIME HE DID MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOA CAN AND WILL CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY IF NECESSARY. END SUMMARY

2. IN A RAMBLING 40 MINUTE SPEECH ON SEP 10 EDUCATION MINISTER IVANISSEVICH STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE PRESENT UNIVERSITY SITUATION AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO HAD EARLIER GONE OUT ON A 2 DAY STRIKE. HE DID NOT, AS MANY HAD EXPECTED, ANNOUNCE THE CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES (UBA), BUT HE CAME VERY CLOSE TO DOING SO. HE WARNED THAT THE GOA "HAD ADEQUATE SOLUTIONS IN HAND WHICH WILL BE USED IN THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT". THIS IS VERY REMINISCENT OF INTERIOR MIN ROCAMORA'S STATEMENT THAT "THE TIME HAS NOT YET ARRIVED FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A STATE OF SIEGE".

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3. IVANISSEVICH CRITICIZED THE UNIVERSITY DROP OUT RATE OF

94 PERCENT AND STATED THAT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND NOT THE UNIVERSITIES, SINCE THE STATE CANNOT AFFORD TO SUPPORT COMPETITION WITH THE US AND USSR. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS TOTAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THE POLICY OF UNRESTRICTED UNIVERSITY ADMISSION (A POLICY WHICH UBA INTERIM RECTOR LAGUZZI HAS ALREADY APPROVED FOR NEXT YEAR).

4. HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO RECENTLY WENT ON A TWO DAY STRIKE (A STRIKE WHICH 92 PERCENT OF THE TEACHERS RESPECTED). HE ALSO STATED THAT THE STUDENTS HAD FALLEN BEHIND AND THAT DISORDER WAS WIDESPREAD.

5. MEANWHILE, THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES (UBA) CONTINUES TO BE THE SCENE OF CONFRONTATION, VIOLENCE, AND POLITICAL POLEMICS. A MARCH ON THE CONGRESS BY SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS ON SEP 9 IN PROTEST OF THE KILLING OF UBA INTERIM RECTOR LAGUZZI'S FOUR MONTH OLD SON WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS. OVER 300 OF THE YOUTHS WERE ARRESTED. EARLIER IN THE DAY A SHOOTOUT BETWEEN RIVAL STUDENT GROUPS IN THE LAW SCHOOL ENDED WITHOUT INJURIES.

6. THE DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL, MARIO KESTELBOIM, ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION (ON SEP 9) BECAUSE, HE SAID, THE BULK OF HIS STUDENT SUPPORT CAME FROM THE PERONIST UNIVERSITY YOUTH (JUP) WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE MONTONEROS IN THEIR RECENT DECISION TO GO UNDERGROUND. KESTELBOIM CRITICIZED THIS DECISION AND STATED "THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ERRORS BUT IT IS STILL OUR GOVERNMENT AND ONE CANNOT IGNORE THE PROBLEMS IT FACES".

7. COMMENT. IVANISSEVICH REVIEWED HIS PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS EDUCATION MINISTER IN THE 1948-52 PERIOD EARLY IN THE SPEECH. HE APPEARS TO BE THE EPITOME OF THE PERONIST OF THAT ERA AS HE REPEATEDLY STRIKES THE THEMES OF JUSTICIALISMO, PATRIOTISM AND CHRISTIANITY UNTIL THE THREE APPEAR TO BECOME SYNONMOUS. WHILE HE MADE THE GOA'S THREAT TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY PERFECTLY CLEAR HE DID NOT PROPOSE ANY ACTION TO REMEDY THE COUNTRY'S EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS. GIVEN THE INDEPENDENT NATURE OF THE SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNIONS IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO IVANISSEVICH'S CRITICISM AND APPEAL TO PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT. ANY HOPE FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE UNIVERSITY PROBLEM SEEMS EVEN FURTHER AWAY AFTER THE SPEECH THAN BEFORE IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, POLICIES, SPEECHES, TEACHERS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, UNIVERSITIES, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS06848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740254-1163
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740953/aaaabsqo.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPEECH BY EDUCATION MINISTER
TAGS: PINT, AR, (IVANISSEVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005